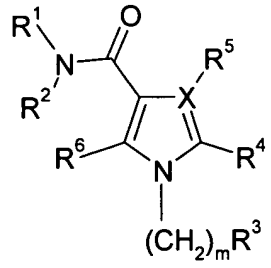
Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added matter is indicated by underlining. Deleted matter is indicated by strikethrough or by brackets [].

1. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ compounds of formula (I) and any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein formula I is:



(I)

wherein:

(a) X is C or N;

(b) R^1 is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

(c) R^2 is lower alkyl ~~or $-(CH_2)_n-R^{2a}$~~;

~~R^{2a} is cycloalkyl, optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, fluorinated lower alkyl or fluorinated lower alkoxy;~~

~~a 5- or 6- membered monovalent saturated heterocyclic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said heterocyclic ring being optionally mono- substituted, di- substituted or tri- substituted, independently, by a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, amino, lower alkylamino, cycloalkyl, oxo, fluorinated lower alkyl or fluorinated lower alkoxy;~~

~~a 5- or 6- membered monovalent heteroaromatic ring containing one to four heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said heteroaromatic ring being optionally mono-, di- or tri- substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, amino, lower alkylamino or cycloalkyl; or~~

~~phenyl, which may optionally be mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, lower alkylamino, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy or nitro;~~

(d) R^3 is a cycloalkyl, optionally mono-substituted, di-substituted, tri-substituted or tetra-substituted, independently, by a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, fluorinated lower alkyl and~~or~~ fluorinated lower alkoxy; ~~or phenyl, which may optionally be mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, lower alkylamino, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy or nitro;~~

(e) R^4 is selected from the group consisting of:

~~a 5- or 6-membered monovalent heteroaromatic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said heteroaromatic ring being optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, amino, lower alkylamino;~~

(1) naphthyl, which may optionally be mono-substituted, di-substituted or tri-substituted, independently, by a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, lower alkylamino, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy and~~or~~ nitro; and~~or~~

(2) phenyl which may optionally be mono-substituted, di-substituted or tri-substituted, independently, by a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, nitro, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy, cyano, lower alkylsulfonyl and~~or~~ $-NR^7R^8$; or two adjacent substituents of the said phenyl residue together are $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$ or $-(CH_2)_2-C(O)NH-$;

(f) R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, halogen and~~or~~ fluorinated methyl;

(g) R^7 and R^8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and~~or~~ lower alkyl; ~~or R^7 and R^8 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered saturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said saturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, amino or lower alkylamino;~~

(h) m is 0, 1 or 2;

(i) n is 0 or 1; and

(j) p is 1, 2 or 3.[;]

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

2. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen.

3. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is methyl. ~~lower alkyl or $-(CH_2)_n-R^{2a}$.~~

4. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1[3], wherein R^2 is ethyl. ~~$-(CH_2)_n-R^{2a}$.~~

5. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1[4], wherein R^2~~R^{2a}~~ is n-propyl. ~~a cycloalkyl residue[s] with three to six carbon atoms which may optionally be mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted, independently, by lower alkyl and/or hydroxy.~~

6. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1[4], wherein R^2~~R^{2a}~~ is s-butyl. ~~a 5-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen and oxygen, said heterocyclic ring being optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by lower alkyl or by oxo.~~

7. (Currently amended) [t]The compounds according to claim 1[4], wherein R^2~~R^{2a}~~ is isobutyl. ~~a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one, two or four heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said heteroaromatic ring being optionally mono-substituted by lower alkyl or by cycloalkyl~~.

8. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1[4], wherein R^2~~R^{2a}~~ is t-butyl. ~~a phenyl residue which is optionally mono-substituted or di-substituted, independently, by a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy, halogen, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy or nitro.~~

9. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is an unsubstituted cycloalkyl residue with five or six carbon atoms.

10. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is a substituted cycloalkyl residue with five or six carbon atoms. ~~a phenyl residue which is optionally mono- or di-substituted, independently, by lower alkoxy, halogen, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy or nitro.~~

11. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is [a] naphthyl. ~~6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one or two nitrogen atoms, said heteroaromatic ring being optionally mono-substituted by lower alkyl.~~

12. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is phenyl optionally mono-substituted, di-substituted or tri-substituted, independently, by a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, nitro, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy, cyano, lower alkylsulfonyl, and~~or by~~ a residue $-NR^7R^8$.

13. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein two adjacent substituents of a phenyl residue R^4 together are $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$ or $-(CH_2)_2-C(O)NH-$, and p is 2 or 3.

14. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 13, wherein both R^7 and R^8 are methyl or both R^7 and R^8 are ethyl.

15. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 13, wherein R^7 and R^8 are both hydrogen. ~~together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5-membered, saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one further heteroatom independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen and oxygen, said saturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally mono-substituted by lower alkyl.~~

16. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein X is C.

17. (Currently amended) The compounds according to claim 1, wherein X is N.

18. (Currently amended) A~~The~~ compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-5-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

5-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-5-p-tolyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

5-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide, ~~and~~

5-(3-Cyano-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide, and~~or~~ any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Currently amended) A~~The~~ compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,4-dimethyl-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(4-difluoromethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-5-(4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,~~

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(3,4-difluoro-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

5-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-5-(4-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

5-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide, ~~and~~

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-5-(4-nitro-phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide, and~~or~~ any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (Currently amended) A~~The~~ compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclopentylamide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclobutylamide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclopropylamide,~~

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dichloro-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide, ~~and~~

5-(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,

and~~or~~ any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Currently amended) A~~The~~ compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

~~5-(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-5-(4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide,~~

(R)-1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid sec-butylamide,

~~5-(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1-(4-methoxy-benzyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid butylamide,~~

1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid butylamide, and

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide,~~

~~or~~ any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (Currently amended) A~~The~~ compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclopropylmethyl-amide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid (furan-2-ylmethyl)-amide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid (3-methyl-thiophen-2-ylmethyl)-amide,~~

(S)-1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid sec-butylamide, and

~~5-(5-Chloro-2-methoxy-4-methyl-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid cyclohexylamide,~~

~~5-(3,5-Bis-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide,~~

~~1-Cyclohexylmethyl-5-(5-fluoro-2-methoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide,~~

~~5-(5-Chloro-2-methoxy-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide,~~

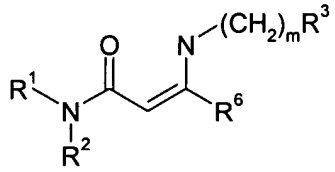
~~5-(5-Chloro-2-methoxy-4-methyl-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid piperidin-1-ylamide, and~~

~~5-(2-Chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid ((1RS,2RS)-2-hydroxy-cyclohexyl)-amide,~~

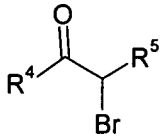
~~or~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A compound manufactured by a process for the manufacture of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which process comprises:
(a) where X is C, reaction of an enamine of formula A:



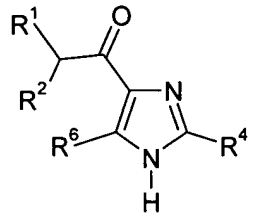
wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^6 and m are as defined in claim 1;
with an alfa-bromoketone of formula B:



wherein R^4 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A compound manufactured by a process for the manufacture of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which process comprises:
(a) where X is N, alkylation of an imidazole of formula F:



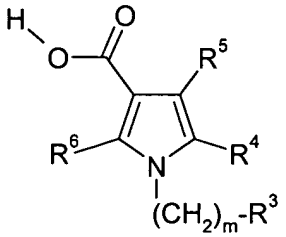
wherein R^1, R^2, R^4 and R^6 are as defined in claim 1;
with an alkyl bromide of formula G:

$$R^3(CH_2)_m\text{-}Br$$

wherein R^3 and m are as defined in claim 1.

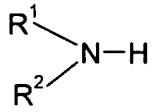
27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A compound manufactured by a process for the manufacture of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which process comprises:
(a) where X is C, reaction of a carboxylic acid of formula N:



wherein R^3, R^4, R^5,R^6 and m are as defined in claim 1;

with an amine of formula J:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined in claim 1.

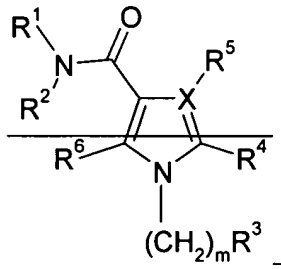
29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition[s] comprising a compound of claim 1 ~~formula I~~



~~(I)~~

~~wherein~~

~~X is C or N;~~

~~R^1 is hydrogen or lower alkyl;~~

~~R^2 is lower alkyl or $-(CH_2)_n-R^{2a}$;~~

~~R^{2a} is cycloalkyl, optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, fluorinated lower alkyl or fluorinated lower alkoxy; a 5- or 6-membered monovalent saturated heterocyclic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said heterocyclic ring being optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, amino, lower alkylamino, cycloalkyl, oxo, fluorinated lower alkyl or fluorinated lower alkoxy; a 5- or 6-membered monovalent heteroaromatic ring containing one to four heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said heteroaromatic ring being optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, amino, lower alkylamino or cycloalkyl; or phenyl, which may optionally be mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, lower alkylamino, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy or nitro;~~

~~R^3 is cycloalkyl, optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, fluorinated lower alkyl or fluorinated lower alkoxy; or phenyl, which may optionally be mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, lower alkylamino, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy or nitro;~~
~~R^4 is a 5- or 6-membered monovalent heteroaromatic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said heteroaromatic ring being optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, amino, lower alkylamino; naphthyl, which may optionally be mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, lower alkylamino, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy or nitro; or phenyl which may optionally be mono-, di- or tri-substituted, independently, by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, nitro, halogenated lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkoxy, cyano, lower alkylsulfonyl or $-NR^7R^8$; or two adjacent substituents of the said phenyl residue together are $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$ or $-(CH_2)_2-C(O)NH-$;~~
~~R^5 and R^6 are each independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, halogen or fluorinated methyl;~~
~~R^7 and R^8 are each independently hydrogen or lower alkyl; or R^7 and R^8 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered saturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, said saturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, amino or lower alkylamino;~~
~~m is 1 or 2;~~
~~n is 0 or 1;~~
~~p is 1, 2 or 3;~~
~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;~~ and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)